

Border Eagle

Vol. 52, No. 33

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Aug. 20, 2004



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Dowell

Is the line ready?

Senior Airman Leremy Jasenec, 47th Communications Squadron, gets ready for his Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployment. Airman Jasenec and several of his squadron members requalified using the M-16 rifle Wednesday. More than 70 Laughlin members will be deploy-

ing in the coming AEFs in September. Every Airman should make sure their training is up to date and be prepared for a four-month deployment, said Staff Sgt. Kent Magilligan, the 47th Mission Support Group logistic plans noncommissioned officer in charge.

Laughlin Manor wins Innkeeper Award

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public Affairs

Laughlin Manor was named the 2004 Air Force Small-Base Innkeeper Award winner in a Headquarters Air Force Services Agency announcement Aug. 12.

"I was in Orlando (Fla.) on vacation when I found out we won," said Kathy Harting, 47th Services Division lodging manager.

As she was about to feel the effects of Hurricane Charley, Ms. Harting called her staff to let them

know about the award. "They were very excited about winning," she said.

Managed by HQ AFSVA, the Air Force Innkeeper Award program encourages lodging staffs to satisfy customers and improve management and operations at all Air Force lodging facilities worldwide.

"Receiving this award was a dream come true," Ms. Harting said. "It's the pinnacle achievement of Air Force lodging operations."

Earning the innkeeper award could not have been done without teamwork and the wonderful staff

here, the lodging manager said

"It comes down to the people here," she said. "I love this staff. We're like a big family and all of their hard work paid off."

Ms. Harting also credited support by the 47th Mission Support Group's, civil engineer, communications and contracting squadrons. Their work was critical to prepare the new \$12 million facility for its customers and before arrival of both evaluation teams, she said.

See 'Innkeeper', page 4

Newslines

New lieutenant colonels

Congratulations to three 96th Flying Training Squadron majors who were selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel. They are:

- Rebecca Groover
- Len Raabe
- John Thompson.

Senior NCO ceremony

A Senior NCO induction ceremony will be held Sept. 1 at the Fiesta Center beginning at 6 p.m.

Dress is Mess Dress for military members and business or evening attire for civilians.

Cost is \$21 with \$3 discount for members. Sign up by Wednesday with unit representatives.

NCO Induction ceremony

Laughlin's Rising 6 will host an NCO Induction Ceremony for staff sergeant selects 3 p.m. Aug. 27. For information call Tech. Sgt. LaShinya Crivens, 298-5628.

Honor Guard openings

The Base Honor Guard is looking for sharp Airmen of any rank to fill openings. If you are interested in joining the Honor Guard, call Staff Sgt. Steve Taylor at 298-5159.

See 'Newslines', page 4

Deployment stats

Deployed:	30
Returning in 30 days:	7
Deploying in 30 days:	44

Mission status

(As of Wednesday)

Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -17.00	T-1, 1.74
T-38, -0.21	T-6, -8.60
Mission capable rate:	
T-37, 80.0%	T-1, 75.4%
T-38, 72.4%	T-6, 82.8%

Fitness culture: Air Force conspiracy



Commander's Corner

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group commander

There is a conspiracy afoot. It started at the highest levels of the Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, no less, and has infiltrated down to the daily life of the everyday Airman. Its purpose is clear; to literally change the face of the Air Force as we know it.

I saw evidence of this phenomena clearly, when I deployed recently to the Arabian Peninsula. Every morning, as I headed out for my 5 a.m. jog I was shocked and surprised at the hordes of joggers, walkers, folks heading to the cardio tent and working up a sweat playing basketball under the dim lights of the outdoor court. It was perplexing at best, because I knew these desert warriors were pushing 16-hour days, 7 days a week, performing strenuous activities under the unbearable heat of a harsh, reflective landscape. At the time I thought the trend was just the result of seasoned warriors, feeling a new perspective on the military mission, understanding that being fit somehow made everything easier. Little did I know that the plot was even more extensive and far reaching than I ever could have imagined!

Further evidence to the conspiracy became readily apparent when I arrived at Laughlin a few months ago. The moment I stepped on base, I saw a colorful marquee

announcing Tae Kwon Do classes, a local tri-athlon, and a push-up competition.

Every morning I can't take my eyes off the looming hulk of the multimillion dollar, state of the art Fitness Facility that is omnipresent on the otherwise flat horizon of the misty dawn. I am lured with a sense of excitement and anticipation of the projected opening of the new facility with spacious physical conditioning rooms, full length lap pool, and indoor running track. The promise of a comprehensive Health and Wellness Center, sports bar with delicious smoothies and healthy snacks beckons even the most serious of couch potatoes.

I have been entranced by the free fitness coaching by Mr. Goins from the Health and Wellness Center, and the upbeat rhythm at his focused On-Resistance Circuit Exercise class is a mesmerizing force that somehow makes a grueling workout actually exhilarating. I see fellow Airmen each morning, eagerly awaiting the multitude of aerobics classes offered by the Fitness center; Spin, Aqua, Pilates, Cardio, how can anyone resist such a plethora of opportunities.

Alas, the final, unquestionable proof of this successful conspiracy is their sheer audacity to have a new fitness program that focuses on the whole person rather than singling out one fitness component to estimate overall fitness. What a brilliant plot! By complying with the new standard you are pretty much assuring a healthier, longer, quality of life with a decreased risk of heart disease, stroke and certain cancers. In fact, this con-

spiracy has its roots in a concept so profound and so mind boggling that many think it's just a figment of someone's imagination.

The fact is that the U.S. Air Force has placed fitness at the forefront of its priorities. It has learned the critical key to having a successful expeditionary force and it's all about being "Fit to Fight". They need Airmen who are healthier, hardier, ready to meet the emotional and physical stress of deployments, available to perform the mission due to a decreased risk of the effects of heart disease and stroke.

A culture of fitness is a successful conspiracy because it provides tremendous benefits to all who comply. By maximizing your overall fitness score, you are making lifelong changes that will keep you healthy for family and friends; you are confirming a commitment to being a better person both physically, and mentally. And for those of you who think that this promise of cultural change is just a passing fad on a general's mind, think again. The most recent Special Interest Item 04-4 from the Department of the Air Force has mandated that all units will be inspected for compliance of the Air Force Fitness Program, AFI 10-248. Unit commanders will be held accountable, you are being held responsible for your personal fitness. Yes, the conspiracy is spreading fast like a dose of adrenaline to a waning heart. So, don't be left in the dust, strap on those running shoes and hold on to your cardio-pacer; we're in for a lifelong ride. The culture of fitness is definitely alive and well, and yes, that's a fact!

Border Eagle

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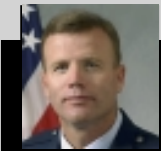
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News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.



Actionline
298-5351 or
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training Wing
commander

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900

"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars"
— 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

Self exams could save your life

By Staff Sgt. Paul Bogumil
Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.

"I'm sorry Paul, but it's cancer."

These were the words I heard one year ago. A week before, I had found a mass on my left testicle.

As soon as I had found the mass, I went to the emergency room at the Air Force Academy. The doctor I saw that night said there wasn't anything she could do but I should follow up and get an ultrasound as soon as possible.

The next day an ultrasound confirmed the mass was a tumor and needed to be removed immediately. I was referred to the urology clinic at Evans Hospital on Fort Carson, Colo.

When my wife and I arrived, the doctor explained it was cancerous and was so concerned

he wanted to remove it that afternoon. I told him I already had plans that could not be changed. We agreed I would be back the next morning at 6:30 a.m. for surgery.

Before I knew it, the surgery was over. I went home the same day and was on convalescent leave for three weeks. The next seven weeks, I had numerous follow up appointments along with more needles in me than I care to count. On Aug. 15, 2003, I got the call I had been waiting for...remission!

But, there was still plenty more for me to face and conquer. I had some form of doctor appointment every month for the next year. I still have regular doctor appointments that will go on for the next nine years.

I live with knowing that during the next nine years, I have

a 40 percent chance of a reoccurrence. Testicular cancer is not very common. About one in every 100,000 men gets diagnosed. Statistics show that white males between the ages of 18-34 are primarily at risk. Guys should conduct self-exams on themselves once a month. If you notice anything different or strange, see the doctor immediately.

These self-exams are very important and could save your life! If I hadn't found the tumor right away, or hadn't done anything about it, the cancer could have quickly spread.

If it had spread, or for that matter if it spreads in the future, chemotherapy, radiation treatment or another surgery that would open me up from my groin to my chest bone are some possible treatments. The bottom line is to check yourself monthly.

American women win the vote

Contributed by
Rosemary Capozziello
47th Mission Support Squadron

In 1971, at the request of New York Rep. Bella Abzug the Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day."

The date observes the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

The following excerpt from "Jailed for Freedom: American Women Win the Vote," a memoir written in 1920 by Doris Stevens, tells the suffragists who made the vote for women possible.

"On Aug. 6, 1918, 100 women dressed in white, holding pro-suffrage banners of purple, white, and gold, assembled in the square across from the White House around the base of the Lafayette monument. As Dora

Lewis, a prominent Philadelphian, began to speak, a policeman seized her, making her the first of forty-eight women arrested at the demonstration.

"After a ten-day delay, while the government's attorney figured out what to charge them with, 26 women were tried and convicted of 'holding a meeting in public grounds' and 'climbing on a statue,' receiving sentences of 10 or 15 days. The 26 convicts were immediately removed to a prison building that had been closed for nine years, having been declared unfit for human habitation.

"They were the only inhabitants of the cold damp cells which were outfitted with iron cots; the water from the unused pipes made the women ill. But suffragists had faced horrendous conditions in prison before.

"Some had served 60 terms at the Occoquan workhouse for the offense of holding a banner with the words: 'Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.'

"While in the workhouse, these well-bred matrons had been stripped naked, beaten, fed rancid food riddled with worms, denied soap and water for washing, and placed in solitary confinement on bread-and-water diets.

"The guards occasionally compelled black women prisoners, arrested on other charges, to beat the white women. Suffragists who fasted in protest had been force-fed. Nevertheless, hundreds of suffragists continued to engage in public protest, submitting to arrest and imprisonment repeatedly for the sake of political liberty for women."

Board discusses quality of life

2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston
Public Affairs

Each quarter, commanders, key personnel and members of advocacy agencies across base meet to discuss you.

The Community Action Information Board, also called “the CAIB,” convenes to discuss quality of life issues that commanders, life skills workers, chaplains and others have noticed over the past quarter.

These quality of life issues vary widely and range from readiness issues to suicide prevention and intervention programs to wing mentorship programs and so much more.

In addition to local concerns, Sabrina Peña, the Laughlin Family Support Center director, current CAIB executive director and primary manager of CAIB functions, brings Air Education and Training Command and Air Force-level issues to CAIB members to determine the impact these programs, special interest items and quality of life issues have on the Laughlin community.

At the July 8 CAIB meeting, members discussed several command-level issues including suicide intervention for civilian Department of Defense employees and how it differs from the services offered to active duty military and family members.

The ASIST program, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, is

offered up to four times a year for commanders, first sergeants and first-line supervisors to help increase the number of trained caregivers in each unit on base. This program is open to military and civilian employees.

“Most of the time when people come in, about half the class will think they are coming to learn a skill that they can use in their unit, and about midway through they realize this is a skill they can use in any aspect of their life,” she said.

There are many meetings commanders must attend, but the CAIB meeting is the only time when commanders sit down with each other and program experts to discuss the quality of life issues at Laughlin, she said. The CAIB combines all the active organizations on base under one umbrella to resolve issues in a timely manner and make progress for the base.

“This is the one time a quarter where every commander is required to sit down for an hour and talk about quality of life initiatives, things that make this a better place to live,” said Mrs. Pena. “Any other time they go to a meeting, there may be bits and pieces of that being discussed along with other things; (but) this is the one time when commanders focus exclusively on quality of life issues and what’s going on in the community.”

In addition to local programs and organizations, the CAIB discusses Air Force wide programs like Air Force

One Source, a one-stop problem-solving tool for Air Force and other military members.

“The purpose (of Air Force One Source) is to provide another tool for information and referral services,” said Mrs. Pena. “While we in the Family Support Center maintain information on what resources are available in the local area, (Air Force Once Source) intent is to provide information all across the globe.”

Air Force One Source allows Family Support Center functions to be accessed 24-hours a day even when an FSC might not be available because of deployment, she said. Whether you are on leave and need childcare or if you need advice on how to help your children cope with daily stresses of school, they can get you information usually in less than 24 hours depending on what type of information you are looking for, Mrs. Pena said.

Air Force One Source can be accessed by telephone from the United States at (800) 707-5784, international toll free at (800) 707-57844, international collect at (484) 530-5913 or online by visiting <http://www.airforceonesource.com>.

To learn more about the topics discussed at the most recent CAIB meeting or for a copy of the minutes, go to the Laughlin homepage at <http://home.laughlin.af.mil> and click on the Community Action Info Board (CAIB) link.

Newslines, from page 1

Retirement ceremony

A retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. Rob Seaberg will be held at 4 p.m., Aug. 27 in Anderson Hall. Col. Herbert Foret, former 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander will preside. Family members are welcome. Please RSVP by calling 298-5926.

Mouth guards

The Dental Clinic is offering appointments Aug. 30 and 31 for active duty personnel and family members to get sports mouth guards. To schedule an appointment, call 298-6331.

Scout leaders needed

Laughlin Cub Scout Pack 204 is looking for adult volunteers. The volunteers are asked to give about 2 hours a week of their time.

The pack will meet every Monday at 6 p.m. the Fellowship Hall (base chapel) beginning Aug. 30. To volunteer or for more information call 298-1243.

Club XL closure

Club XL closed for renovation Aug. 16 and will reopen Oct. 22.

Pepperonis! will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and noon to 10 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call 298-6469.

Innkeeper, from page 1

Laughlin Manor opened in January. The staff closed the old lodging facility, conducted a grand opening of the new building’s 116 rooms and prepared it for Air Education and Training Command and Air Force evaluation teams within a six-month period. An AETC team’s March visit earned the AETC Inns of Excellence Award.

A four-person team from HQ AFSVA, San Antonio, and the American Hotel and Lodging Association inspected Laughlin Manor in June. After that visit, the lodging staff felt

confident in their chance of winning.

“We were relieved after that visit by Air Force,” Ms. Harting said, “but we felt very satisfied with our performance. Win or lose we knew we did our best and gave it our all.”

Having all of the amenities a new lodging facility could have made a lasting impression with the evaluation teams, but was not the key for winning the innkeeper award, Ms. Harting said.

“You can have the best-looking facility in the world, but it’s the people that make you a winner,” she said.

During the AETC evaluation and Air Force visit, two staff members were presented Gold Button Awards,

given to those who stood out during the inspections. Ramona Garcia, Laughlin Manor desk clerk, earned the AETC award and Staff Sgt. Nat Ruiz, lodging noncommissioned officer in charge, earned the Air Force award. In November, they will travel to the Worldwide Lodging Conference in New York.

Another honor was presented to Rosie Parker, Laughlin Manor housekeeping and custodial worker. During the Air Force evaluation, she was selected as a nominee for the Air Force Innkeeper Traveler Award. The award is presented to lodging team members who exemplify the highest standards

of professionalism, attitude, customer service and job knowledge. Ms. Parker will travel to the conference with seven other Air Force nominees.

Laughlin Manor will receive its coveted Innkeeper Award at the Worldwide Lodging Conference which is held in conjunction with the International Hotel/Motel and Restaurant Show.

“We will keep the trophy here for a year,” Ms. Harting said. “It is truly a great honor to receive it, and next year, they are going to give it to us again.”

Seven other base lodging operations vied for the award.

Chapel
information



Catholic

- Monday - Friday* ● Mass, 12:05 p.m.
- Saturday* ● Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m.or
by appointment
● Mass, 5 p.m.
- Sunday* ● Mass 9:30 a.m.,
● Religious Education, 11 a.m.
- Thursday* ● Choir: 6 p.m.
● Rite of Christian Initiation,
7:30 p.m.

Protestant

- Wednesday* ● Protestant Women of the Chapel
Ladies’ Bible Study, 9 a.m.
● Choir, 7 p.m.
- Sunday* ● Contemporary worship, 9 a.m.
in the base theater
● General worship (a blend of
Liturgical and contemporary
worship), 11 a.m.

Chaplain Staff

- Wing chaplain:* Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim,
Roman Catholic
- Senior Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast,
Presbyterian Church, USA
- Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack,
Independent Christian Church
- Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher,
Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.



Laughlin
Salutes

SUPT Class 04-13
awards

- Daedalian award:**
1st Lt. Eric J. Masters
- Academic award, airlift/
tanker track:**
2nd Lt. Joshua D. Wiitala
- Academic award, fighter/
bomber track:**
2nd Lt. Paul S. Doughty
- Flying training award,
fighter/bomber track:**
1st Lt. Sean P. Hall
- Flying training award,
airlift/tanker track:**
2nd Lt. Matthew T. Thatcher
- Airlift/tanker Distin-
guished Graduates:**
2nd Lt. Matthew T. Thatcher
2nd Lt. Justin P. Wilson
- Fighter/bomber Distin-
guished Graduate:**
1st Lt. Sean P. Hall
- Outstanding Officer of
Class 04-13:**
Capt. Michael J. Mellott
- AETC Commander’s Tro-
phy, airlift/tanker track:**
2nd Lt. Matthew T. Thatcher
- AETC Commander’s
Trophy, fighter/bomber
track:**
1st Lt. Sean P. Hall

First Term Airman’s
Course graduates

- Airman 1st Class Catherine V. Balolong, 47th Operations Support Squadron
- Airman 1st Class Kenneth W. Curry, 47th OSS
- Airman 1st Class Frank J. Gilman, 47th OSS
- Airman 1st Class Steven D. Keldie, 47th OSS
- Airman 1st Class Jason S. King, 84th Flying Training Squadron
- Airman 1st Class Jennifer T. Manibusan, 47th OSS
- Airman 1st Class Abigail M. Rodriguez, 47th Operations Group
- Airman 1st Class Troy E. Turney, 47th Communications Squadron
- Airman Jennifer M. Howard, 47th Comptroller Squadron
- Airman Christopher J. Buisman, 47th CS
- Airman Nikkia D. Henry, 87th Flying Training Squadron
- Airman Tony L. Lansdell, 47th OSS
- Airman Crystal M. Plesea, 47th OSS
- Airman Troy D. Watts, 47th CS
- Airman Mikeal S. Bean, 47th CS

- Airman Ty’Waun A. Burks White, 47th SFS
- Airman Gerrod R. Frame, 47th SFS
- Airman Basic Johnathan Parker, 47th OSS
- Airman Basic Janessa M. Perugini, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

Buckle up!
It saves lives



The Air Force
rewards
good ideas with
money.
Check out the
IDEA
Program data
system at
[https://
ideas.randolph.af.mil](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil),
or call 298-5236.

Please recycle this newspaper

Bush announces global posture for next decade

By John Banusiewicz
*American Forces
Press Service*

WASHINGTON— The United States will redistribute forces now stationed at overseas locations “where the wars of the last century ended,” President Bush announced in Cincinnati on Aug. 16.

The president’s announcement came during an address to the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. “The world has changed a great deal,”

President Bush said, “and our posture must change with it for the sake of our military families, for the sake of our taxpayers, and so we can be more effective at projecting our strength and spreading freedom and peace.”

America’s current posture in Europe was designed to guard against Soviet aggression, the president said.

“The threat no longer exists,” he said.

The decision to redistribute forces comes after three years of study and consultations, President Bush said.

“We’ve consulted closely with our allies and with Congress,” he said. “We’ve examined the challenges posed by today’s threats and emerging threats.” The result, he said, will be “a more agile and flexible force.”

As the new global posture takes shape during the next 10 years, more U.S. troops will be stationed at, and deployed from, home bases in the United States, President Bush said.

“We’ll move some of our troops and capabilities to new locations so they can surge quickly to deal with unex-

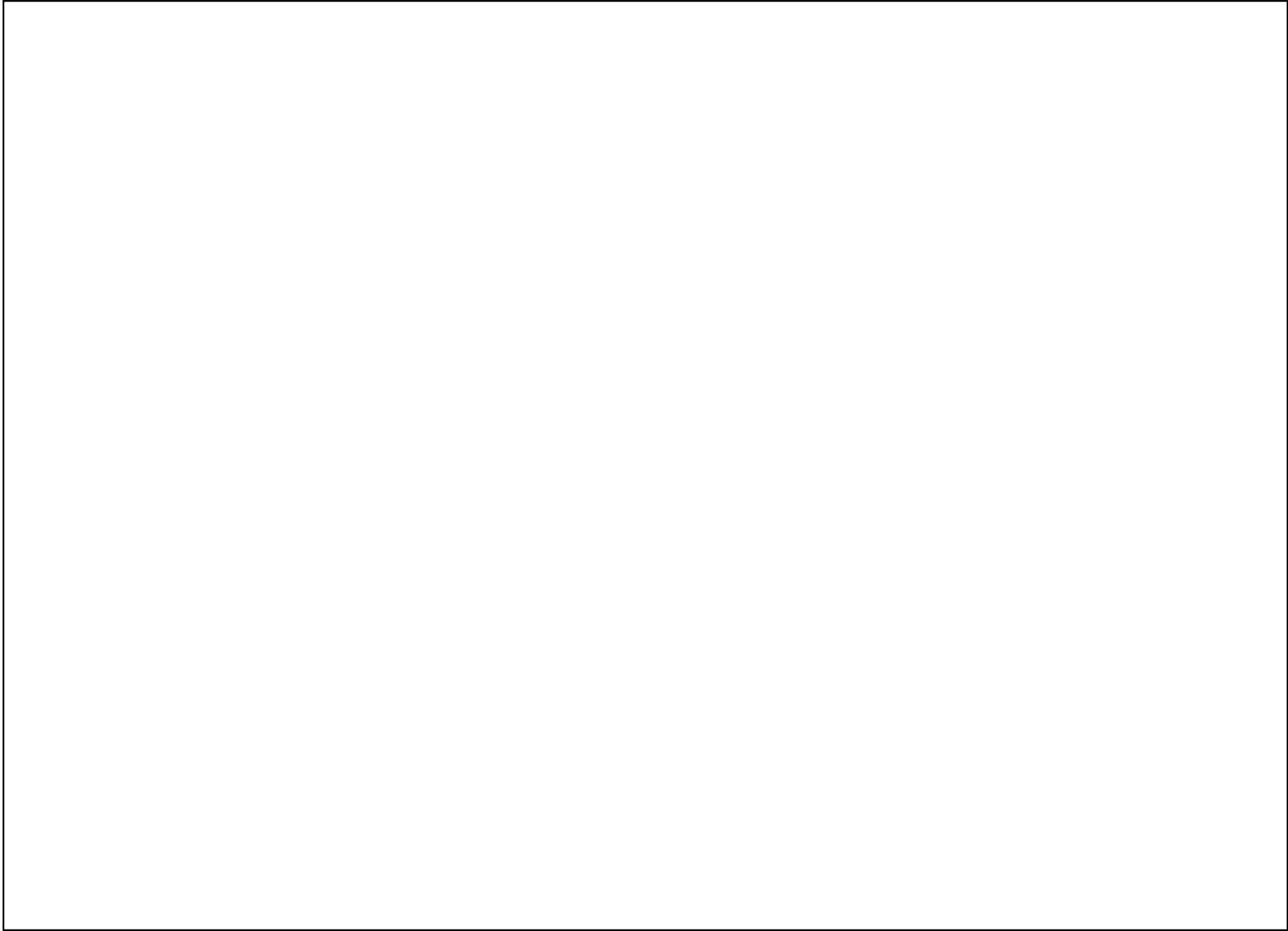
pected threats,” he said. “We’ll take advantage of 21st century military technologies to rapidly deploy increased combat power.”

The new plan will strengthen U.S. alliances and build new partnerships worldwide, and it will reduce stress on military people and their families, the president said. “Although we’ll still have a significant presence overseas, under the plan I’m announcing today, over the next 10 years, we will bring home about 60,000 to 70,000 uniformed personnel and about

100,000 family members and civilian employees,” President Bush said.

This would give servicemembers more time on the home front, as well as more predictability and fewer moves during a career, he said.

“Our military spouses will have fewer job changes, greater stability, more time for their kids and to spend time with their families at home,” he said. Taxpayers will benefit from cost savings realized by closing obsolete overseas bases and facilities, the president said.





The Air Force rewards good ideas with money. Check out the IDEA Program data system at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil>, or call 298-5236.

Laughlin patch rich in history

Compiled by staff reports

As with any base or wing across the Air Force, the Laughlin shield or patch holds a historical significance. The wing patch, approved for use Jan. 2, 1973, is adorned with colors and emblems that hold a particular meaning.

The blue and yellow shades are Air Force colors. The blue color that permeates the background represents the skies in which Laughlin planes fly. The shades of yellow that highlight the patch stand for the sun and the excellence required of Team XLers and other Air Force personnel.

The olive branch, the wing and the lightening bolt that separates them also have special significance. The branch on the lower right side of the patch symbolizes training and especially those XLers who are trained here to become fully qualified pilots. The golden wing embodies the training goals the students strive to accomplish.

Finally, the lightening flash that engulfs the entire patch symbolizes the successful students who, upon graduating pilot training here, take their places as Air Force pilots set out to defend peace in the United States.

The “XL” logo also has a history behind it. In 1982, when the 47th Flying Training Wing marked its 40th anniversary, Mr. John Stein, former Public Affairs Officer, designed the “XL”



logo to mark the occasion.

The logo, which is the Roman numeral for the number 40, is a registered mark with the State of Texas as a

cattle brand. This emblem stands for Laughlin’s commitment to excellence and is used as the tail flash for all aircraft stationed here.



by Master Sgt. Ron Tull
*Air Force Personnel
Center Public Affairs*

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- With less than 80 days to the presidential election, Air Force officials have added another tool to their voting effort to ensure all Airmen can participate.

"Airmen Votes" is the

name of a Web page designed to give Airmen, their family members and Air Force civilians all the information they need to register to vote, file an absentee ballot request and mail in an absentee ballot.

"Your vote counts. Since 1960 two different presidential elections have been decided by less than 1 percent of the popular vote," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P.

Jumper said. "The absentee voting system has traditionally been fraught with challenges, but we are working hard to make it easier for you to vote no matter where you're located."

The Web page is available at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/airmenvotes/. It can also be reached through Air Force Link and the Air Force Portal.

The page boils down the

essential elements of the federal voting Web site to make registering to vote as simple as possible.

"We wanted to create the ability for our Airmen to be within three mouse clicks of registering to vote in any state from anywhere in the world," said Maj. Gen. Anthony F. Przybyslawski, Air Force Personnel Center commander here.

"It is our right and privilege as Americans," he said. "Lives were lost defending this right. There is no excuse not to vote."

Department of Defense officials have teamed up with U.S. Postal Service officials to treat balloting materials as priority mail going to and from the voter. A significant change for voters overseas is ballots will receive postal cancellation at the APO or FPO to give a more accurate measure of the date and time a ballot is received into the postal system.

For more information, contact your unit voting assistance officer.

Laughlin CDC scores see positive improvement

By Airman First Class
Olufemi A. Owolabi
Staff writer

Nearly 30 percent of Laughlin’s enlisted population is in upgrade training for a 5 skill level.

Only 19 percent of Laughlin’s enlisted manning authorizations are for 3-levels or below. In 2002 Laughlin’s career development course pass rate ranked second lowest in the command at 84 percent.

With nearly double the number of 3-level Airmen authorized, and 5-level manning sitting at 79 percent base-wide, CDC pass rates are a key issue for commanders and supervisors across Team XL. Over the past two years, commanders and supervisors at every level have worked to turn this statistic around. Although there is ground still to be gained, notice-

able improvements have been made. “In the last two years, Laughlin’s CDC pass rate was rated second lowest in the command at 84 percent when compared to the AETC standard of 85 percent,” said Master Sgt. Gail Henderson, education training flight superintendent. “Today, the highest rate we have seen is a pass rate of 94 percent.” The goal of the wing is 97 percent, Sergeant Henderson said.

Evaluation of CDC pass rates began in Sept. 2002 when a new Air Force instruction for trainees mandated quarterly CDC pass-rate evaluation, and statistics showed Laughlin was one of the lowest, she said.

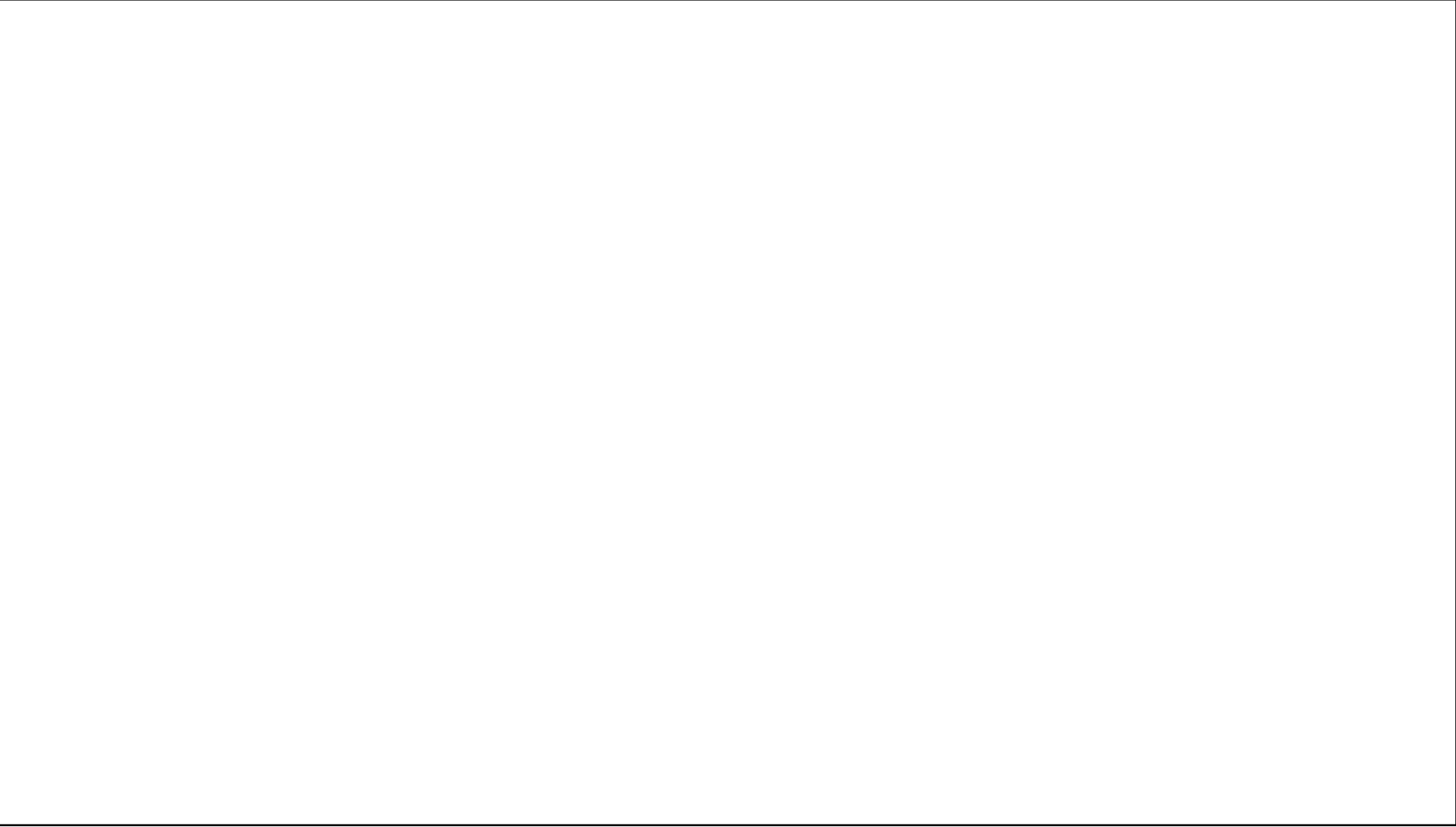
“I was concerned and decided to talk to commanders and supervisors of their responsibilities as far as CDCs and upgrade training are con-

cerned,” she said. The supervisor’s involvement is the most important because, as non-commissioned officers and senior NCOs, they have taken several tests in their career, either for upgrade training, promotion tests or for senior NCO academy, Sergeant Henderson said. “Because they know how to test, they can help get the troop prepared for their CDC test.”

Emphasis by commanders was placed on how important it is to pass CDC tests. Trainees who score between 90 and 94 percent get a one-day pass, a letter and certificate signed by the wing commander. Scoring between 95 to 98 percent, nets a three-day pass, a letter and certificate. A score of 99 to 100 percent earns trainees a three-day pass, a three-month parking pass in special areas on base, a letter and certificate and

an incentive flight. To help trainees study, supervisors or appointed trainers should review CDCs with trainees, constantly evaluate their capabilities and administer concurrent knowledge training, Sergeant Henderson said. “A trainer or supervisor asks a trainee to read a portion of the CDC overnight and the next day they will both cover hands-on-training together on what the trainee read overnight,” she said. “This cements the knowledge of what they learned in their mind. The more senses they use when studying the better off they are.” As soon as trainees arrive on base, they are briefed by the training manger or superintendent during their first-term Airman class on how to prepare and study for their CDCs, she said. Though, she said the ulti-

mate responsibility to pass CDCs lies with trainees, study groups, which could be of great help, are encouraged. “Study groups are only allowed when studying CDCs for upgrade testing; they are not allowed for promotion testing,” Sergeant Henderson said. She encourages trainees to start a personal study schedule of their own and to ask questions when they have problems comprehending what they have studied. Commanders are also urged to take personal interest in how trainees are doing. CDC or upgrade training benefits a trainee, flight, squadron, wing and the Air Force as a whole and therefore should be taken seriously, she said. For help, supervisors can contact their unit training managers, or call Tech Sgt. LaValle Jenkins, the base education and training manager at 298-4382.



Southwest

Story and photos by
2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston
Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This article is part 3 in a four-part series on activities in the Del Rio area.)

In past weeks, the Border Eagle staff has explored the area in search of cave drawings, bike trails, hospitable local service, historical sites and an array of eateries to name a few.

What then remains to be explored?

True Texas history... that's what!

On the long and sometimes unending road to San Antonio (Hwy 90 East), signs dot the roadside calling travelers to Brackettville, the home of Fort Clark Springs and Alamo Village.

About 30 minutes east of Laughlin on Hwy 90, Fort Clark Springs emerges on the south side of the road. Typically, drivers cruise by this historic site with little more than a blink. Established June 24, 1852 and placed on formal military lease July 30 of the same year, Fort Clark Springs is the historic home of the Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts. These scouts took up arms on the Texas frontier to stabilize the area and provide a future for United States settlements. The fort, one of the last cavalry posts in the nation, was closed as military station in June 1944 and sold in 1946 to a private company for salvage. In 1971, a private corporation bought and developed Fort Clark, turning it into a guest ranch covering about 2,700 acres.

The spring running near the fort feeds Las Moras Creek and a dam directs water into a large swimming pool area with a year-round temperature around 68 degrees. Below the dam, guests fish, hike, picnic, watch

birds or camp on the wooded banks of Las Moras Creek. Additionally, Fort Clark has an 18-hole golf course, an on-site restaurant, a small hotel, RV hook-ups, an adult recreation center and spa, a youth recreation center and a museum. There is no entry fee for the fort; guests are only asked to pay for the services and amenities they use. Motel pricing varies based on member status, but the non-member price is \$57 per night plus tax. The RV spaces rent for \$19.50 per night or \$114 per week. A round of golf costs \$18 during the week and \$20 on weekends with a \$9 per person cart fee for both. For reservations or more information, call (800) 937-1590 or (830) 563-9340.

Not far up the road (7 miles north on FM 674, a left off Hwy 90), Alamo Village tells the story of Texas, long ago. Alamo Village is the site where John Wayne's "The Alamo" was filmed in 1959. The village has hosted over 200 films, commercials, music videos and more. Movies filmed at the village include "Barbarosa" with Willie Nelson, "Lonesome Dove" with Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones, "The Bullfighter" with Willem Defoe, and "The Good Old Boys" starring Sissy Spacek, Tommy Lee Jones and Matt Damon.

Alamo Village is open at 9 a.m. to the public 360 days a year and

closed only five days during the Christmas holiday. Hours Memorial Day to Labor Day are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and entrance fee to the village is \$8.60 for adults, \$4.30 for children ages 6 to 11 and free for children age 5 and younger. Price includes access to the 18 buildings including three gift shops, a John Wayne museum and gunfight shows every two hours beginning at 10:30 a.m. and continuing until 4:30 p.m. After Labor Day, hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is \$7.50 for adults and \$3.75 for children ages 6 to 11.

Additionally, special events are offered at Alamo Village throughout the year.

The 44th Annual Labor Day Celebration at Alamo Village is scheduled 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 6. This event includes horse races, live music, camel rides, contests and games for all ages. Other live entertainment will include Dean Smith, a Hollywood stuntman and his trick horse "Hollywood," Ben Rodgers, touted as "The Last of the Singin' Cowboys," and an appearance by The Texas Guns, winners of the 4th of July Gunfight Competition at the village.

Alamo Village Western Fandango is offered Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. This event includes steak dinner, western melodramas and music, and cowboy poetry. Cost is \$15 per person in advance, or \$20 at the gate.

Alamo Village offers two trail rides each year, one in March and one in October. Oct. 21 to 24, the village will host this multi-day major event. The schedule starts Thursday evening with registration, steaks on the grill and live entertainment. Friday, guests will start the trail ride, have lunch on the trail, and take a sunset ride. Saturday, guests are back on the trail, and Sunday, guests participate in a cattle drive through the village. This event costs \$185 per person if paid prior to the first day and includes meals, camping in the movie set and daily entertainment. Rental horses are available to complete the experience. Additionally, daily pricing is available if four days is too much.

For details on events offered at Alamo Village, or for reservations, log on to <http://www.homestead.com/thealamovillage/AlamoVillage.html>, call (830) 563-2580 or e-mail happy@hilconet.com.

If all this is a little too much Texas for you, consider visiting Garner State Park near Concan, 30 miles north of Uvalde on Hwy 83.

(Right/Below) Garner State Park, near Concan, offers a full camping experience for the entire family. Guests can rent inner-tubes, paddle boats, cabins or primitive camping slots.



B

Coming with history

The drive is about an hour and a half from base, but the scenic drive is unlike any other in the area. This park offers a variety of activities including paddle-boat rentals, miniature golf, inner-tube rentals, outdoor basketball courts and more.

This park has all levels of campers in mind. They offer primitive camping, shelter cabins with water hook-ups, air-conditioned cabins and RV-camp areas. Additionally, trees provide plenty of shade from the Southwest Texas sun during a river-floating adventure. Entrance fee is \$5 for adult day use, ages 13 and older, and the \$3 for overnight guests and senior citizens 65 and older. Campsites with water hook-ups rent for \$10-15 per night, campsites with water and electric are \$15-20 per night, screened shelters are \$20-25 per night, and all accommodate up to eight guests per site. Premium cabins with a fireplace rent between \$65-75 per night, and cabins without fireplaces rent for \$55-70 per night. Both types accommodate six guests per site. Also, a group

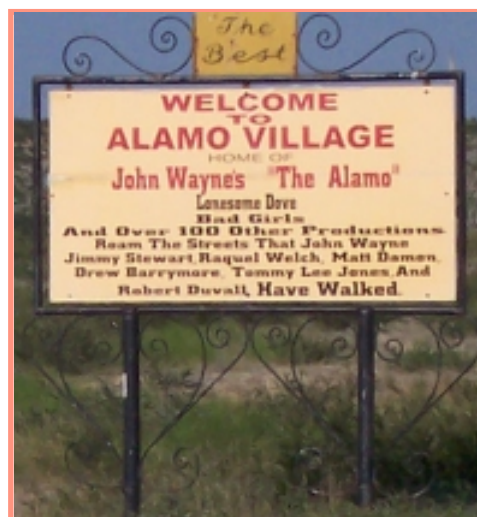
camp site with dining facilities is available. For details about the park or for camping reservations, call (800) 792-1112.

While tubing down the Frio River is available in Garner State Park, the locals prefer to hit Concan for the full experience. Neal's Lodges, 23 miles north of Uvalde on Hwy 83 and a short distance east on Hwy 127, offers Frio River fun. Rent inner tubes, schedule a floating

trip (complete with shuttle) or take a sunset hay ride. There is a grocery store, laundry facilities, dance floor (bring your own music) and café on site. Accommodations and facility rentals range in price from \$40-300 depending on amenities.

True Texas history or a day on a Texas river, whatever you choose, take a tour of Texas one historical site at a time, and start right here in Del Rio.

(Below) Fort Clark Springs is a private community with golfing, swimming, a museum and more offered to the public. Pictured is the golf course snack bar nestled along Las Moras Creek which feeds the FCS natural swimming pool.

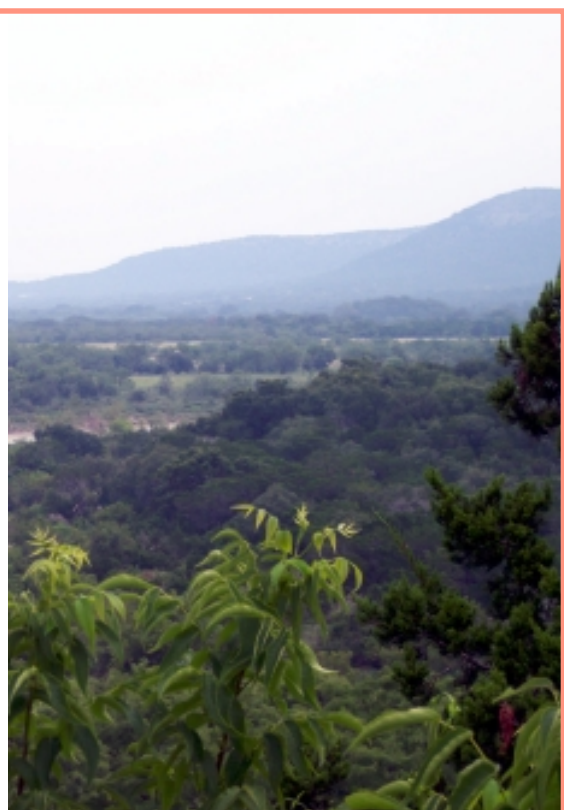


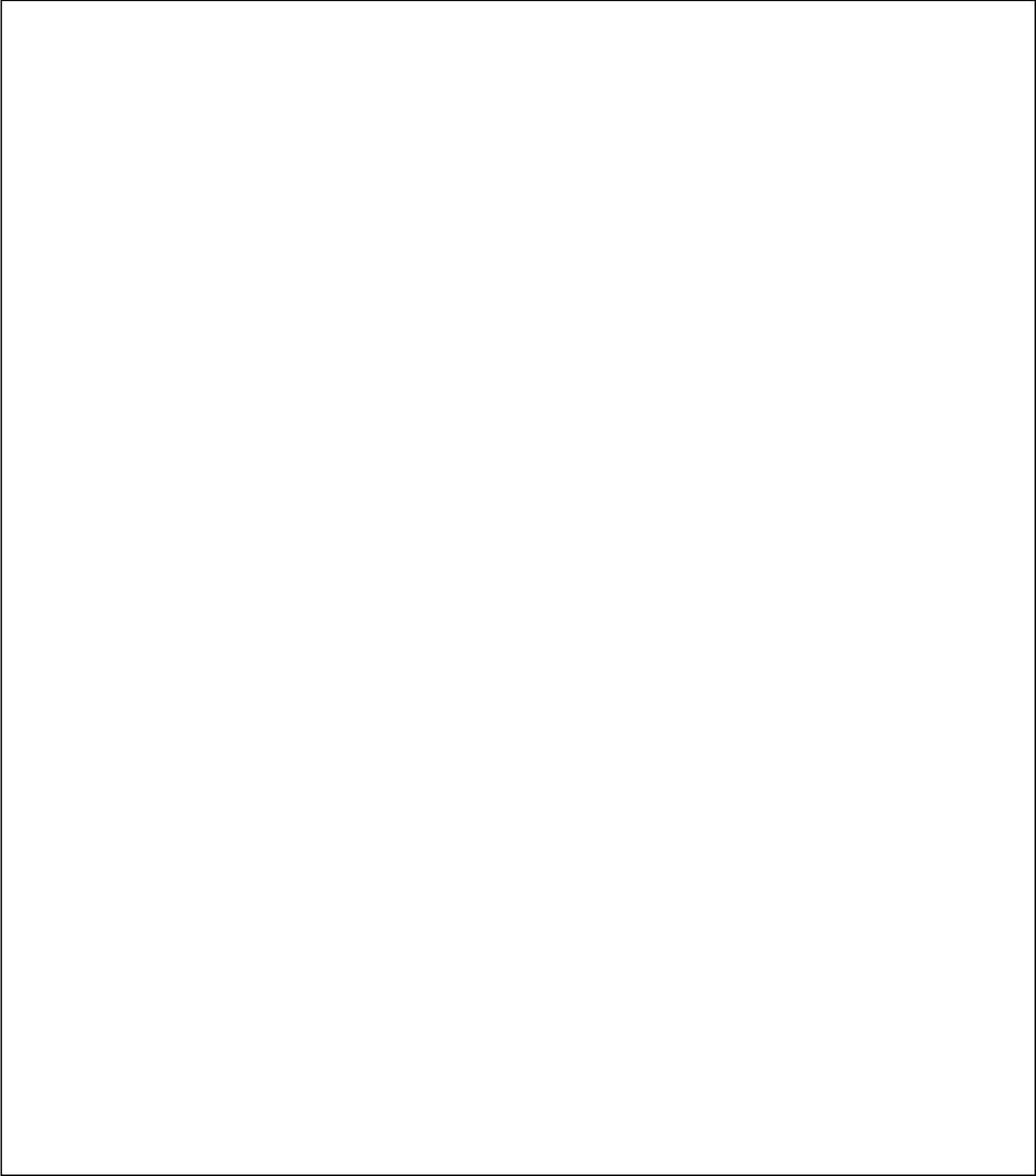
(Right) Fork Clark Springs has an 18- and 9- hole golf course on site. Fees are \$18 Monday to Friday and \$20 Saturday and Sunday. Cart fees are \$9 per person.

(Left) Alamo Village hosts a variety of events year round. The village opens daily at 9 a.m.

360 days a year and played host to many movies, commercials and music videos featuring actors such as John Wayne, Matt Damon, Willem Defoe, Sissy Spacek and Drew Barrymore.

If there is a hidden jewel you would like featured in the Border Eagle, call Public Affairs at 298-5988 or e-mail sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.





The *XLer*

Airman 1st Class Victoria Donnewald
47th Medical Operations Squadron

Hometown: Joliet, Ill.
Family: Father, Garold Bishop, Mother Pamela Bishop, Sister Tamara Bishop.
Time at Laughlin: one year and 10 months
Time in service: 2 years and 6 months
Hobbies: Working out, reading, writing, drawing and listening to music.
Greatest accomplishment: Making Senior Airman Below-The-Zone.
Bad habit: Sleeping too much on weekends
Favorite movies: The Matrix Series, Once upon a time in China
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?: My grandfather, he died before I was born.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Dowell





(Left) An entire Air Force career is displayed in Tava Musial's creation. Mrs. Musial is a Frame Shop "artist." (Above) John Day, Wood Skills Development manager, discusses a framing project with customer Anne Young. (Top right) Christine Palmer learns how to use a portable mat cutter during a framing class at the

Frame Shop. Kristen Rife, another one of the five Frame Shop artists, shows 1st Lt. Kiristin Young how to measure her project during a framing class. The Wood Skills Development Frame Shop offers a class the second Saturday of every month. The cost is \$15. For more information, call 298- 5153.

Base 'artists' put lives on display

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Bill Dowell
Public Affairs

While Kristin Rife might not consider herself an artist, her work is on display all over the world.

She is neither painter nor sculptor. You might see several examples of her work and never know she created them. While Mrs. Rife does not actually create the artwork people enjoy, she, along with five other non-appropriated fund employees here, frames it.

"We have shipped artwork all over the world," said John Day, Wood Skills Development manager.

Mr. Day started the Frame Shop about 15 years ago and said its success as one of the most profitable shops in the Air Force lies solely with the people he has been able to hire.

"As a training base, many people are only here for a year," he said. "Because of that, it is very difficult for the (spouses) to get

jobs off base. We have spousal preference and I have had people with art degrees working here."

But having a degree isn't required. Creativity is. All of the women who work, and have worked, at the Frame Shop have some craft background, whether it's making scrap books or making wreaths, and that creativity is what Mr. Day looks for.

"I certainly think there is an aspect of creativity," said Tava Musial. "People come in with ideas and they don't know how to make it a tangible object. I find that very exciting."

As a pilot training base, one of those ideas which is now a very popular Frame Shop item is the "broken wings."

When a pilot earns his or her first set of wings they are never supposed to wear them. Instead, it is tradition for the pilot to break the wings in half. The pilot keeps one half, and the other half is given to someone significant in their life.

"Several years ago, someone brought

these wings in and we framed them," said Mr. Day. "Now they are one of our most popular items."

About every three weeks a pilot training class graduates here. Class collages, training certificates and the "broken wings" keep everyone at the shop busy. There is also the occasional shadow box for someone retiring.

"We get to frame things people are proud of," Mrs. Musial said. "Our goal is to shape the memories people here get. Hopefully, the memories they hang on the wall will evoke good thoughts from here."

The effort often includes real blood, sweat and tears she said. Pride is something that can be seen in everything coming from the Frame Shop.

"It's not just another frame to us," Mrs. Musial said. "We make a connection with the customer. I try to get a story. 'What is this?' 'Is this your family?' And then when I'm working on it, I think about that. So I just try to make it something that they really, really love."

Laughlin places third in AETC softball

By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi A. Owolabi
Staff writer

Team XL proved once again that it is one of the best in the Command Aug. 8 when the Laughlin softball team placed third out of 12 teams in a three-day double-elimination tournament.

The team, which consisted of 10 active-duty members and 5 civilians, departed for Lackland AFB, the venue for the competition, Aug. 5. after two weeks of preparation and training.

On Aug. 6, the team began the competition by engaging in a “round-robin” tournament with other teams. This was used to test the capability and strength of each team. “We didn’t do so well in the round-robin tournament,” said Alexander Craig, the softball team coach here. “This is because we were so short handed since five members of the team couldn’t get off

work until Friday night.”

Laughlin regrouped and returned to the field to play with full force on Aug. 7 when the double-elimination tournament began.

Laughlin defeated Little Rock AFB, Ariz. 14-13 in the first game. In the second game against Randolph AFB, Laughlin came on stronger by beating the Randolph team 15-12.

In the last game of double-elimination, Laughlin came out with flying colors again when Sheppard AFB, Texas, lost to Laughlin in the bottom of the seventh inning, 15-12.

“These winnings placed us in the winner’s bracket and we proceeded to the next stage of the competition,” Mr. Alexander said.

At the final stage of the tournament, which began Aug. 8, Laughlin lost to Tyndall AFB, Fla. 18-2 and Lackland finally put Laughlin out of the tournament with a game score of 18-14.

The Tyndall team ended up win-

ning the competition; Lackland was second and Laughlin placed third.

Three Laughlin members, 2nd Lt. Ricardo Cornejo, Ricky Venegas and Danny Bejarano, were picked for the all-tournament team. Mr. Alexander said if someone is selected for all-tournament team, he can compete with others selected in a trial for an Air Force-wide competition.

“Putting the team together for two weeks and placing third in the command, I think this is an outstanding performance,” Mr. Alexander said. “But next year, we will start building our team earlier.”

“Placing third in the Command has shown us that even though we are small, we can compete and we have some of the best athletes in the Command,” he said.

Softball Standings

	Team	W-L
<u>American League</u>	Del-Jen1	7-2
	87th	5-4
	84th/85th	9-5
	LCSAM 2	6-5
	OSS	10-4
	LCSAM 1	7-6
	86th	8-4
	Del-Jen 2	4-8
<u>National League</u>	Team	W-L
	CES	14-0
	CCS	9-5
	SFS	7-8
	LSI	5-7
	MED GP	6-6
	MSS	2-12
	SVS	2-12

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The Family Support Center offers services to help families prepare for deployment and keep everyone in touch during deployments. For details, call the Family Support Center at 298-5574 or 298-5620.